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May 18, 2011

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Joe Grindstaff
Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th St Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Grindstaff,

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) appreciates the continuous effort to improve the Delta Plan and recognizes the difficulty of the process given the time constraints. However, CCWD is concerned that the water quality chapter of the Delta Plan has not received the appropriate level of review by the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) nor has there been ample opportunity to provide public comments.

The first staff draft of the Delta Plan was released February 14, 2011 without the water quality chapter. The Council met to discuss the first staff draft of the Delta Plan February 24 and 25, 2011 but the water quality chapter was released later on March 9, 2011. There was no subsequent Council discussion of the water quality chapter and no opportunity for public comment. The water quality chapter of the second staff draft of the Delta Plan was released March 18, 2011 but contained no scientific background and only one policy. The water quality chapter of the third staff draft Delta Plan released April 22, 2011 contains no water quality policies related to covered actions or consistency determinations and was not fully discussed at the most recent Council meeting May 12 and 13, 2011. Lead scientist Cliff Dahm indicated that the current draft of the water quality chapter was going to be completely reworked, minimizing the usefulness of any discussion of the chapter at the meeting. Dr. Dahm indicated that the updated version of the water quality chapter would be completed by May 17, 2011. CCWD requests the updated water quality chapter be released for public review as soon as possible allowing a sufficient window for public review and comment. Public comments on the updated water quality chapter should be incorporated into the fourth staff draft of the Delta Plan scheduled to be released June 13, 2011.

CCWD has been engaged in the development of the Delta Plan for over a year and has provided numerous comments on water quality and other important issues during that time. To continue to be as constructive as possible, ample time must be allotted to review and comment on the updated water quality chapter. Stakeholder input on all critical issues is necessary in developing a successful Delta Plan. Improving water quality is essential to achieve the coequal goals and deserves further consideration by the Council and stakeholders.

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CCWD relies on the Delta as the drinking water supply for its 500,000 customers in eastern and central Contra Costa County. Protecting Delta water quality remains our top priority. CCWD would like to see the public process and final Delta Plan reflect the importance of water quality for all Delta users. CCWD looks forward to providing further input to the Delta Plan as the process continues. Please call me at (925) 688-8018 or Maureen Martin at (925) 688-8323 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Marguerite Naillon
Special Projects Manager

MN/MM:wec

cc: Delta Stewardship Council